

Newport



Merrill

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Poetry.

From the German of Chamisso.
THE OLD WASHERWOMAN.

BY REV. CHARLES T. DICKES.

In her busy with her linen,
An old dame with silver hair,
Sits on the wash-tub,
And washes and wrings and dries,
And has followed year by year,
A honest toil at which you find her,
With diligence the sphere
Of labor God assigned her.

Young days, (for she is human,
Loved, and hoped, and wedded, too;
She has known the lot of woman,
On earth and sorrow not a few,
Dear sick men she sought to save,
Three children faithfully she bore him,
And she has buried in the grave
Her faith and hope when earth closed o'er him.

Her charge now laid upon her,
Her cheerful energy she shows;
And though her hair is white and thin,
And though her back is bent and old,
She seeks her linen, and she dries,
And she has followed year by year,
A honest toil at which you find her,
With diligence the sphere
Of labor God assigned her.

When night comes, and the stars are
And the moon is shining bright,
And the old dame is alone,
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Agriculture.

GENERAL FARM WORK.—Early part of this month light sandy soils intended for general crops may be plowed, and indeed spring plowing for sandy soils is preferable to fall plowing; for although clayey loams are benefited by winter ridging, and the consequent pulverization from frequent freezings and thawings, still sandy soils would not be improved by similar treatment as they would suffer by working, &c.

Although clayey soils, as well as all others, should be plowed early in spring as practicable, still they should not be disturbed while wet. The action of the plow is to compact them in lumps, and thus render them unkind and non-absorbent.

Such fields as were plowed last month, but are not yet planted, should be run through by the cultivator immediately before planting, so as to have the surface of the ground thoroughly disintegrated just before sowing the seed; such fresh surface insures rapid vegetation, and buries half germinated weeds too low to interfere with the regular crops. Top-dress winter grain with Improved Super-phosphate of Lime mixed with damp charcoal, plaster of Paris, or loam, as you now wish to press forward the plants, which could not be done with propriety in the fall, for fear of their being too forward, and thereby more liable to be winter-killed.

Attend to water courses, draining, &c., as during the early freshets your moving grounds may be rendered uneven in growth, by uneven irrigation. If the season has been backward, you may still sow spring wheat, barley, oats, rye, field peas, &c.—Beans, early potatoes, &c., may now be sown. Attend to pastures. Do not turn cattle too early into pasture grounds before the grass has had time to start fairly, and the ground has become sufficiently hard not to be disfigured by them. If you intend to fatten cattle in the fall and winter, you should now plant out carrots, parsnips, &c. You can raise eight hundred bushels or more of Belgian carrots to the acre, and they will do more service for your cattle and milk cows than four times the quantity of ground appropriated to either hay or corn crops. Cleanse collars from putrescent substances; plant Indian corn; sow Lucerne; attend to the extermination of insects, &c.

GENERAL REMARKS.—This is a season when many are stocking their vegetable, fruit and flower gardens; a little advice may not be out of place. Be careful, then, of your purchases; buy nothing that is second-rate, and do not hunt after bargains at auction stores. The best of everything takes up no more room than the worst. Deal with respectable established nurserymen and seedsmen, who have reputations to preserve. Make out your list beforehand and when you cannot trust your own judgment, get the advice of some experienced friend on whom you can rely. By so doing you will save your ground, your time, your money, and your temper.—*Horticulturist.*

ORCHARD.—Look well to peach trees, and see that the peach worm is not at work. Poor boiling water on the lower part of the trunk near the ground, and if a sufficient quantity be used it will cook the worm without injury to the tree. Even three gallons of boiling water may be so used without injury, to each tree.

Place the salt and lime mixture about peach trees; and if the shortening in of peach, apricot, and nectarine trees, was neglected last month, attend to it this month.

Manure trees, and recollect that they require cultivation. Attend to preparation of scions early, and graft such trees as require it.

GREEN-HOUSE.—Finish re-potting early, give air freely to such plants as were re-potted last month and are now established, or they will draw spindly. Leave all open every mild night, and but few hours can now occur that will require shades closed in the day time. Waterings require now to be both copious and frequent; woody stalks will flourish with less water than those of a soft nature that are growing rapidly. Such require water daily.

FLOWER GARDEN.—To have a good display of flowers next summer, dig five or six inches of manure eighteen inches deep in the flower beds. If the ground is trenched over and the poor soil brought to the surface, so much the better. The surface soil being poor will throw the plants into flower at once, and this flowering property will be maintained as warm weather increases, on account of the roots coming in contact with the manure below.

LAWNS.—It is of no use to anticipate the enjoyments of a good lawn, until the soil is made deep and put in the best order. Trench it over two feet in depth, if a small plot; if it exceeds two acres, put in a sub-soil or trenching plow, and let the work be done thoroughly. Nothing less will suffice. There are no half-way compromises in this matter.

Selected Tale.

THE UNMEANT REDUKE.

BY SYLVANUS COBB, JR.

Charles Nelson had reached his thirty-fifth year, and at that age found himself going down hill. He had once been one of the happiest of mortals, and no blessing was wanting to complete the sum of his happiness. He had one of the best of wives, and his children were intelligent and comely. He was a carpenter by trade, and no man could command better wages, or be more sure of work. If any man attempted to build a house, Charles Nelson must boss the job, and for miles around, people sought him to work for them. But a change had come over his life, a demon had met him on his way, and he had turned back with the evil spirit. A new and expensive carpenter had been sent for by those who could no longer depend upon Nelson, and he had settled in the village, and now took Nelson's place.

On a back street where the great trees threw their green branches over the way, stood a small cottage, which once had been the pride of its inmates. Before it lay a wide garden, but tall, rank grass, grew up among the choking flowers, and the piling of the fence was broken in many places.—The house itself had once been white, but it was now dingy and dark. Bright green blinds had once adorned the windows, but now they had been taken off and sold. And the windows themselves bespoke poverty and neglect, for in many places the glass was gone, and rags, shingles, and old hats had taken its place. A single look at the house and its accompaniments told the story. It was the drunkard's home!

Within sat a woman yet in early years of life, and though she was still handsome to look upon, the bloom was gone from her cheek, and the brightness had faded from her eyes. Poor Mary Nelson! Once she had been the happiest among the happy, but now none could call her miserable!—Near her sat two children, both girls, and both beautiful in form and feature; but their garbs were all patched and worn, and their feet were shoeless. The eldest was thirteen years of age, and the other two years younger. The mother was hearing them recite a grammar lesson, for she had resolved that her children should not grow up in ignorance. They could not attend the common school, for thoughtless children sneered at them and made them the subject of sport and ridicule; but in this respect they did not suffer, for their mother was educated, and she devoted such time as she could spare, to their instruction.

For more than two years Mary Nelson had earned all the money that had been used in the house. People hired her to wash, iron, and sew for them, and, besides the money paid, they gave her many articles of food and clothing. So she lived on, and the only joys that dwelt with her now were teaching her children and praying to God.

Supper time came and Charles Nelson came, reeling home. He had worked the day before at helping move a building, and thus had earned money enough to find himself in rum for several days. As he stumbled into the house the children crouched close to their mother, and even she shrank away, for sometimes her husband was ugly when intoxicated.

Oh, how that man was changed within two years! Once there was not a frown looking man in town. In frame he had been tall, stout, compact, and perfectly formed, while his face bore the very beau ideal of manly beauty. His noble form was now bent, his limbs shrunken and tremulous, and his face all bloated and disfigured. He was not the man who had once been the fond husband and doting father. The loving wife wept, and prayed, and implored, all to no purpose; her husband was bound to the drinking companions of the bar-room, and he would not break the bonds.

That evening Mary Nelson ate no supper, for all the food she had in the house was not more than enough for her husband and children; but when her husband had gone she went out and picked a few berries, and thus kept her vital energies alive. That night the poor woman prayed long and earnestly, and her little ones prayed with her.

On the following morning Charles Nelson sought the bar room as soon as he arose, but he was sick and faint, and the liquor would not revive him, for it would remain on his stomach. He had drunk very deeply the night before, and he felt miserable. At length however, he managed to keep down a few glasses of hot sling, but the close atmosphere of the bar-room seemed to stifle him, and he went out.

and sank down by the side of a stone wall and was soon buried in a profound slumber. When he awoke the sun was shining down hot upon him, and raising himself to a sitting posture he gazed about him.—He knew that it was afternoon, for the sun was turning towards the west. He was just upon the point of rising, when his motion was arrested by the sound of voices near at hand. He looked through a chink in the wall, and just upon the other side he saw his two children picking berries, while a little farther off were two more girls, the children of the carpenter who had lately moved into the village.

"Come Katy," said one of these latter girls to her companion, "let's go away from here, because if anybody should see us with those girls they'd think we played with them. Come."

"But the berries are thick here," remonstrated the other.

"Never mind—we'll come out some time when those little ragged drusks are not here."

So the two favored ones went away hand in hand and Nelly and Nancy Nelson sat down upon the grass and cried.

"Don't cry, Nancy," said the eldest throwing her arms around her sister's neck.

"But you are crying too, Nelly!"

"Oh, I can't help it," sobbed the stricken one.

"Why do they blame us?" murmured Nancy, gazing up into her sister's face.

"O, we are not to blame. We are good and kind, and loving, and we never hurt anybody. O, I wish somebody would love us, I should be so happy."

"But we are loved, Nancy. Only think of our noble mother. Who could love us as she does?"

"I know—I know, Nelly; but that ain't all. Why don't papa love us as he used to? Don't you remember when he used to kiss us and make us so happy?—O, I wish he could be so good to us once more. He is not—"

"—sh, sis! don't say anything more. He may be good to us again; if he knew how we loved him I know he would. And then I believe God is good, and surely he will help us sometimes, for mother prays to him every day."

"Yes," answered Nancy, "I know she does, and God must be our Father sometimes."

"He is our Father now, sis."

"I know it; for don't you remember that mother told us that she would leave us one of these days? She said a cold finger was upon her heart, and—"

"Don't don't, Nancy; you'll—"

The words were choked with sobs and tears, and the sisters wept long together. At length they arose and went away, for they saw more children coming.

As soon as the little ones were out of sight, Mr. Nelson started to his feet. His hands were clenched, and his eyes were fixed upon a vacant point with an eager gaze.

"My God!" he gasped, "what a villain I am! Look at me now! What a state I am in, and what have I sacrificed to bring myself to it! And they love me yet, and pray for me?"

He said no more, but for some moments he stood with hands still clenched, and eyes fixed. At length his gaze was turned upward, and his clasped hands were raised above his head. A moment he remained so, and then his hands dropped by his side, and he started toward home.

When he reached his home he found his wife and children in tears; but he affected to notice it not. He drew a shilling from his pocket—it was his last—and handing it to his wife, he asked her if she would send and get him some milk and flour, and make him some porridge. The wife was startled by the strange tone in which this was spoken, for it sounded just as that voice had sounded in days gone by.

The porridge was made nice and nourishing, and Charles ate it all. He went to bed early, and early the following morning he was up. He asked his wife if she had milk and flour enough to make him another bowl of porridge.

"Yes, Charles," she said. "We have not touched it."

"Then, if you are willing, I should like some more."

The wife moved quickly about the work, and ere long the food was prepared. The husband ate it, and he felt better. He washed and dressed, and would have shaved had his hand been steady enough. He left his home and went at once to a man who had just commenced to frame a house.

"Mr. Manly," he said, addressing the gentleman alluded to, "I have drunk the last drop of alcoholic beverage that ever passes my lips. Ask me no more questions, but believe me now while you see me true. Will you give me work?"

"Charles Nelson, are you in earnest?" asked Mr. Manly, in surprise.

"So much so, sir, that were death to stand upon my right hand yonder bar-room upon my left, I would go with the grim messenger first."

"Then here is my house lying about in rough timber and boards. I place it all in your hands, and shall look to you to finish it. While I can trust you, you may trust me. Come into my office and you shall have the plan I have drawn."

We will not tell you how the stout man wept, nor how his noble friend shed tears to see him thus; but Charles Nelson took the plan, and having studied it for awhile he went out where the men were at work getting the timber together, and Mr. Manly introduced him to their master. That day he worked but little, for he was not strong yet, but he arranged the timber, and gave directions for framing. At night he asked his employer if he dared trust him with a dollar.

"Why, you've earned three," returned Manly.

"And will you pay me three dollars a day?"

"If you are as faithful as you have been to-day, for you have me money at that."

The poor man could not speak his thanks in words, but his looks spoke for him, and Manly understood them. He received his three dollars, and on his way home he stopped and bought first a basket, then three loaves of bread, a pound of butter, some tea, sugar, and a piece of beef steak, and he had just one dollar and seventy-five cents left. With this load he went home. It was some time before he could compose himself to enter the house, but at length he went in and set the basket upon the table.

"Come, Mary," he said, "I have brought something home for supper. Here, Nelly, you take the pail and run over to Mr. Brown's and get a couple of quarts of milk."

He handed the child a shilling as he spoke, and in a half bewildered state she took the money and hurried away.

The wife started when she raised the cover of the basket, but she dared not speak. She moved about like one in a dream, and ever and anon she would cast a furtive glance at her husband. He had not been drinking—she knew it—and yet he had money to buy rum with if he had wanted it. What could it mean? Had her prayers been answered? O, how fervently she prayed then.

Soon Nelly returned with the milk, and Mrs. Nelson set the table out. After supper Charles arose, and said to his wife,

"I must go up to Mr. Manly's office to help him arrange some plans for his new house, but I will be home early."

A pang shot through the wife's heart as she saw her husband turn away, but still she was far happier than she had been before for a long while. There was something in his manner that assured her, and gave her hope.

Just as the clock struck nine, the well-known footfall was heard, strong and steady. The door opened, and Charles entered. His wife cast a quick glance into his face, and she almost uttered a cry of joy when she saw how he was changed for the better. He had been to the barber's and to the bath's. Yet nothing was said upon the all important subject. Charles wished to retire early, and his wife went with him. In the morning, the husband arose first and built the fire. Mary had not slept until long after midnight, having been kept awake by the tumultuous emotions that had started up in her bosom, and hence she awoke not so early as usual.—But she came out just as the tea kettle and potatoes began to boil, and breakfast was soon ready.

After the meal was eaten, Charles arose, put on his hat, and then turning to his wife he asked,

"What do you do, to day?"

"I must wash for Mrs. Birby."

"Are you willing to obey me once more?"

"O—Yes."

"Then work for me to day. Send Nelly over to tell Mrs. Birby that you are not well enough to wash, for you are not—Here is a dollar, and do with it as you please. Buy something that will keep you busy for yourself or children."

Mr. Nelson turned towards the door, and his hand was upon the latch. He hesitated, and then turned back. He did not speak, but he opened his arms and his wife came upon his bosom. He kissed her, and then having gently placed her in a seat, he left the house. When he went to his work that morning, he felt well, and very happy. Mr. Manly was by to cheer him, and this he did by talking and acting as though Charles had never been unfortunate at all.

It was Saturday evening, and Nelson had been almost a week without rum. He had earned fifteen dollars, ten of which he had in his pocket.

"Mary," he said, after the supper table had been cleared away, "here are ten dollars for you, and I want you to expend it in clothing for yourself and children.—I have earned fifteen dollars during the last five days. I am to build Squire Manly's great house, and he pays me three dollars a day. A good job, isn't it?"

Mary looked up, and her lips moved, but she could not speak a word. She struggled a few moments, and then burst into tears. Her husband took her by the arm and drew her upon his lap, and then pressed her to his bosom.

"Mary," he whispered, while the tears ran down his own cheeks, "you are not deceived. I am Charles Nelson once more, and will be while I live. Not by a set of mine shall another cold cross our brow." And then he told of the words he had heard on the previous Monday while he lay behind the wall.

"Never before," he said, "did I fully realize how low I had fallen, but the scales dropped from my eyes then as though some one had struck them off with a sledge. My soul started up to a standing point from which all the tempters of earth cannot move it. Your prayers have been answered, my wife."

Time passed on, and the cottage once more assumed its garb of pure white, and its whole windows, and green blinds. The roses in the garden smiled, and in every way did the improvement work. Once again was Mary Nelson among the happiest of the happy, and her children chose their own associates.

Historical.

MEMOIR OF RHODE ISLAND, 1666.

Some reasons, humbly presented unto the Right Honourable Edward Earl, of Clarendon, Lord High Chancellor of England—by the Governor and Company of his Majesties Colony of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations—shewing why it is both right, and of necessity, that the part of the said Colony distinguished by the name of the Kings province should remain to the said Colony.

1st.—For as much as we have had possession by free purchase in some part of the middle of the Narragansett Country by the Indians sale, about seven or eight and twenty years, besides what was before granted to the four Townes of Providence, Portsmouth, Newport, and Warwick.

2d.—For that, the said Country is wholly and clearly contained in the grant made in his late Majesties name, by the Lords and Commons, in the year 1643—before the Indians surrendered themselves and lands unto his late Majesties and Government, and protection, which grant was since confirmed—and that which Mr. Wells underhand, got of the same County was prohibited, being never passed at Council table, nor registered.

3d.—For that the Indians since the said grant, have sold several parts of the said County, and take full satisfaction for it, of people of this Colony, who bought and possessed it quickly; until which time four or five years, the other Colonies by clandestine purchases, and forced upon that those people had purchased as aforesaid, and the rest, as yet unsold, and this is fully cleared to be true, by the Indian Sachems own acknowledgements in their address to his royal Majesty, in April 1662; which address was by the Honourable Commissioners Sr. Robert Car. Kt., George Cartwright, and Samuel Manerick Esqrs. here produced, and to the said Sachems read, and by them clearly understood and owned.

4th.—For as much as the whole is contained in his Majesties late Royal grant to this Colony in 1663; and to divide the same part, will render both inconsiderable, as that neither will in any measure be sufficient for any competent number of people to live upon, besides the inconveniences that will arise by mixture of one with the other, which would render both in a state of much trouble, and discouragement to people for building, or settling upon it; except contained in one entire tenure, as granted to the Colony aforesaid, and under that one government.

5th.—For, that the whole is considered to be fully granted in our patent under the great seal, containing all that is now called the Kings Province, and the rest is no way answerable unto the least of the other Colonies, in quantity, as by a map, calculated in that respect according to true information and knowledge, and herewith presented. It doth appear, so that on either part (if parted) there can be no competency to raise any considerable supply of provisions for trade to his Majesties other plantations—nor can this Colony grow to any maturity of strength, to serve his Majesty, but groans under the weight of poverty, and be subjected still to the will of the other Colonies, to give what they please for the little we raise; we being not able to transport it, as being not worth while, far abroad to make the best of it because of the little quantity thereof.

6th.—For, that by experience we have found, that by reasons of the interruptions this Colony hath had in the possessing the Narragansett, now called the Kings Province, which interruptions was by force from the other Colonies, as it is cleared so the Honourable Commissioners afore mentioned. Many of the people of this Colony have been forced to expose themselves to seek out other Plantations to their utter ruin, and undoing, and some unto Plymouth claims 12 or 16 miles from Rhode Island, which had we, had the use of the said Narragansett Country would have in a good measure sufficed and encouraged our own people and have given strength and growth to the Colony to have set upon trading and fishing, &c.

7th.—And lastly, that Country of the Narragansett, of right, belongs to this Colony, not for the aforesaid reasons only, but also for that, altho the Sachems did about 20 years since submit it, and themselves to his Majesties late Royal Father of glorious memory, yet no cognizance could be, or was then, or even after, by his said Majesty, taken of the same;—nor until the Sachems made their last address unto his Royal Majesty in the year 1662, which their address being taken notice of and in mentioning the said Country, and owning it to be contained in our former grant, &c. His most Royal Majesty was thereupon and thereafter, however graciously pleased to give and grant the said Narragansett Country, expressly unto this Corporation; all it and the rest, under the name of English Colony.

(To be continued.)

Laws of R. Island.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS.

In General Assembly, January Session, AD. 1556.

AN ACT in amendment of an Act entitled "An Act establishing a Harbor Line on part of the East side of Providence river."

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows: Section 1. The harbor line of Providence river, on the east side thereof, between Manton and Halletts wharf and a point on Jonathan Pike's wharf marked "D," on a plat drawn by Cushing and Farnum, October 3, 1851, and recorded in the city clerk's office of the city of Providence, which said plat was made part of the Act to which this Act is in amendment, and was annexed thereto, is hereby established as follows, viz: beginning at the south-west corner of Manton & Halletts wharf, thence running southerly in a straight line to said point on Jonathan Pike's wharf marked "D," on said plat.

Sec. 2. If any person shall erect or create any obstruction in said harbor beyond said line now established, such person shall forfeit and pay the sum of not less than five hundred nor more than three thousand dollars, to be recovered by indictment before the Supreme Court, one half to and for the use of the city of Providence, and one half to and for the use of the State; and the Board of Aldermen of the City of Providence shall be authorized, before or after conviction, to remove such obstruction at the expense of the person erecting or creating it.

Sec. 3. No person shall build or extend any wharf on the easterly side of said harbor line now established, without such provision for the flow of the water through the culverts leading to said wharves, as the surveyor of highways of the city of Providence shall deem necessary, and a penalty of five hundred dollars, to be recovered before any court of competent jurisdiction, to and for the use of the State.

Sec. 4. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and annulled.

True copy—attest:
JOHN R. BARTLETT, Sec'y.

AN ACT in amendment of an Act entitled "An Act in relation to Foreign Insurance Companies."

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows: Section 1. So much of the eighth section of an Act entitled "An Act in relation to Foreign Insurance Companies," passed at the October session, A. D. eighteen hundred and fifty-four, as requires of every such company, a statement of its business, a statement of the directors of the company for which he acts, of the standing of such company is hereby repealed. Such statement as is required by this Act is to be hereafter made, signed and sworn to by the President and Secretary of such company. And said section of said Act is further amended by striking out the words "to be annually made out, and insert in their stead the words and to be made up to the first day of December annual return of the company."

Sec. 2. This Act shall take effect immediately after its passage.

True copy—attest:
JOHN R. BARTLETT, Sec'y.

AN ACT in amendment of an Act entitled "An Act in relation to Foreign Insurance Companies."

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows: Section 1. In addition to powers conferred upon them by the Act of which this is an amendment, Courts of Probate shall have cognizance and jurisdiction over petitioners or guardians appointed by them for authority and license to sell mixed estates of their wards and all estates of their wards which are required by law to be conveyed by deed and according to the terms provided for the conveyance of real estate.

Sec. 2. This Act shall go into effect immediately upon its passage.

True copy—attest:
JOHN R. BARTLETT, Sec'y.

AN ACT in relation to recognizances taken before the Police Court and Municipal Court of the city of Providence.

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows: Section 1. All recognizances taken by the Police Court of the city of Providence upon appeal to the Municipal Court, and all recognizances taken by said Police Court, shall be certified to the next term of said Municipal Court and filed in the office of the Clerk of said Court. And said Municipal Court shall have full power and jurisdiction in such cases, and also over recognizances taken by said Court and defaulted, and may issue writs of habeas corpus and execution thereon.

True copy—attest:
JOHN R. BARTLETT, Sec'y.

AN ACT in amendment of an Act entitled "An Act concerning crimes and punishments."

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows: Section 1. Every person who shall wilfully and maliciously beat, wound, injure, or destroy any monument erected for the purpose of designating the boundaries of any town, or of any tract or lot of land, or any tree marked off for that purpose, shall be imprisoned not exceeding six months, or fined not exceeding two hundred dollars.

True copy—attest:
JOHN R. BARTLETT, Sec'y.

In consequence of an error in our table last week, (in giving Mr. Robinson the votes of Mr. Fall, we justice to Mr. Fall, publish it again this week.

PROVIDENCE COUNTY.

Governor. Lt. Governor.

Providence, 2750 252 150 262 1618 51
North Providence, 480 351 175 301 51
Cumberland, 202 875 176 875 4
Bristol, 921 125 125 200 248 83
Foster, 78 147 78 147 0
Hopkinton, 620 66 66 207 66 1
Glocester, 125 252 125 251 46
Burrillville, 201 281 201 281 0
Tiverton, 229 244 229 244 69
Johnston, 220 240 220 240 0
5480 4820 15 441 4404 1002 35

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 12, 1856.

The effect of peace in Europe has already been observed in this country in the continuation of the war in breadstuffs. So long as the war lasted, there was an unusual demand for all kinds of provisions that could be shipped to Europe, and the anxiety manifested by many to buy largely for this purpose, has led to a glut in many European markets. In Liverpool, alone, one house has sold in the last few days more than a million bushels of wheat, without including the interest of commission.

In this country there has been a reluctance on the part of producers and speculators to sell except at extravagant prices, in the hope that the continued troubles abroad would keep the rates at a high level, consequently consumers have been forced to do with as little as possible, and the grainaries of the West are fast to bursting. Added to this, there was an unusual quantity of winter wheat last fall, which, owing to the quantity of snow, (which has kept the ground warm,) is now in excellent order and promises well. So that, all things considered, we know not how it can be otherwise than a season of reduced rates in the price of all kinds of provisions. We have had to pay enough, in all conscience, for everything; the speculators have in some cases made fortunes, but, if the truth were known, with a far greater number the boot is on the other leg. Give us bread, and a plenty of it, at a fair price; let us have a steak at a price somewhere within reason, and it would be better for the consumer—that we are sure of—and better for the producer—that we are sure of—and better for the consumer—that we are sure of—and better for the producer—that we are sure of.

On Tuesday we visited the wreck of the schooner D. W. Dickson, now ashore on Brenton's Reef. The hull is on a rock, her stern in the shore, a few yards from Black rock, and at low tide she is nearly high and dry. Her masts have been cut away and are now on shore, and she has been dismantled and her effects sold. The shore is strewn with fragments of masts, masts, small No. 2s—broken barrels, bits of rope, boards and planks. The hull of the vessel has a hole on the starboard side that will let in something more than daylight, and it will probably never be got off. A heavy swell from the south-east would break planks and timbers into kindling wood in a very short time.

The day on the shore was very delightful. The air was again soft and spring-like, and it really gave us an idea that warm weather was not so very distant, especially when we saw the blackbirds, with their scarlet shoulder-knots, hunting about for some quiet place in which to build their nests, and scores of robins and wrens hopping from twig to twig preparatory to settling down solemnly to the work of rearing a noisy brood. The grass, too, in spring places, spoke of a coming change, and the farmers, ever ready to improve the first opportunity to go forth and sow, were spreading manure on their fields and getting the plow and harrow ready for heavy work. And speculators in land—they are never napping—have also discovered the signs of spring, and almost every "eligible lot" not "engaged" or "under consideration," has its freshly painted sign, "for sale—apply, &c.," stuck in the corner, inviting those who have "the ready" to invest in estates that are going off like hot cake, and of which there is only a limited number left. And so, as we have said, spring is coming, though hardly here yet, and let every one prepare to enjoy it to the full.

Dr. ALFRED TAYLOR, the celebrated professor of chemistry at Guy's Hospital, in giving his views on adulteration of food, before the select committee of the British House of Commons, remarked that there had, no doubt, been some exaggeration upon the subject of adulteration, but on the whole he thought it extended so far as to be very injurious to the public, and that among the poorer classes, especially, a large amount of disease might be traced to improper food. And as to such medicines so largely used by the poor, they contained generally very drastic purgatives, such as gamboge, scammony, &c., and, being manufactured on a large scale, and often improperly mixed, fatal results have occurred. He thought some kind of check should be given, if it could be done without interfering with the liberty of the subject. At present these medicines were used for all kinds of diseases, for many of which they were decidedly prejudicial.

With respect to "hair dyes," he mentioned that oxide of lead was extensively used, which, combining with the hair, produced a dark color; and he had known cases where partial paralysis was caused, owing to the absorption of the oxide of lead by the skin. When the hair dye was discontinued the effect ceased.

The Savannah Journal says that the cultivation of the oyster, or bawket mussel, is claiming attention in that section of the country, and it is destined to become a profitable product, as it can be raised upon a soil of little or no use for any other purpose. Hitherto the labor and expense of peeling the willow for manufacturing purposes has been a drawback, but this difficulty is now remedied by an effective machine, by which the labor is almost entirely done. The whole cost of raising and peeling a ton of willow does not exceed fifty or twenty dollars; it will sell for one hundred and fifty dollars and it will be a long time before the market can be supplied so as to reduce the price, and it will never be reduced so that it will not pay better, perhaps, than any other farm crop. The amount annually imported into this country is stated to be from five to six millions of dollars' worth.

Willows can be cut any time after the leaves fall, before the buds begin to swell in the spring. The bark makes good mulch for fruit trees, and it contains a large amount of potash.

We take the liberty of saying to a correspondent addressing us from Haverhill, Mass., that if he and his employers could be induced to read more to be quite as well informed in regard to matters connected with their calling, as they now assume to be, and, furthermore, that if he really desires, as he pretends to, the information asked for, he would have sought it as a gentleman—over his own signature; nevertheless, our mission is to aid, and if even now he would have us enlighten the ignorant of his neighborhood, we can "furnish the documents."

For a number of years past we have regularly had a snow storm from the 15th to the 18th of this month. Those days fall on next week and it remains to be seen whether this year will be an exception or not. We can afford to dispense with it, should the clerk of the weather deem it proper to withhold it.

Hunt's *Merchandise Magazine* gives a very clear view of the extensive manufacture of salt at Onondaga Salt Springs, which were opened in 1797, producing that year 20,474 bushels of fine salt, and the quantity has yearly increased, showing for the past year a yield of 6,082,883 bushels.

It has been estimated that the maple sugar crop of the past year was worth two millions, two hundred thousand dollars. This article might easily be brought into more general use. Refined, it is as white and handsome as any sugar from the southern states or Cuba.

It has been demonstrated that a bear cannot be put under the influence of chloroform by the ordinary process, three pounds having been exhausted in New Orleans in the attempt, without producing any other effect than causing the animal to froth at the mouth.

Heering have come—my neighbors of Tanton and the Vineyard. The first of the season was caught at the latter place on the 27th ult., and sold for a dollar and a half.

REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER is making a great stir, we think, needless stir about Kansas and Slavery's rider. His name, in connection with these two things, has passed all over the country, receiving comment on every hand, in most cases very decidedly for or against the position which he has placed himself. This is not, however, very agreeable to the reverend gentleman, and probably it is, else would he seek some other way of walking before men. But the old order of things has passed away and the words of Christ, "all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword," is now interpreted, "spread the gospel—and do it with Slavery's rider."

Seriously, we think the press should remove such a stain, and denounce any one who can so far forget his high calling as to turn a place of worship into an auction room (see an article in another column) for the sale of firearms, to be used in a civil war. And if men of this stamp have no higher respect for the House of God, they should at least be made to feel that the public respects itself and will not countenance such acts.

The money changers of old, and those who sold doves, turned the house of prayer into a den of thieves; the Christian disciples of the nineteenth century turn it into an armory and muster room. The one had the sanction of custom and pleaded a love of gain; the other secures the smiles of a fashionable party, and, thus approved, is prepared to shed a brother's blood.

In this a Christian land and are we in the middle of the nineteenth century? If so, we have fallen upon evil times. The bible, what is it? It cannot be our guide surely, for peace is its mission, not Slavery's rider. The Christian Sabbath—it was once ordained a day of prayer and holy communion with God; not a time to laugh and crack coarse jokes over instruments of death. But we have indeed fallen upon evil times and the mischief now sent out to sow the seeds of righteousness we armed with revolvers rather than truth, relying more securely upon weapons of war in the case of Christ than on the prayers of the church and his promise to the faithful.

SHALL THE STRIKER BE SPRINKLED WITH PEPPER OR SALT WATER?—This question has recently been considered by the Aldermen's committee on the Croton Aqueduct department. Mayor Wood announced that during the coming summer the streets should be sprinkled with salt water, which would, in his opinion, be more healthful, and would also economize the supply of Croton. The committee, however, are said to have determined to report in favor of using the Croton water. They were influenced to this conclusion by a petition, signed by a large number of physicians and others, setting forth the detrimental effects that would follow the substitution of salt water. It is stated that salt water was used to sprinkle the streets prior to the last visitation of the yellow fever, and that it prepared the way for increased virulence of the epidemic.

We commend the above from the *N. Y. Commercial Advertiser* to the attention of the Board of Aldermen. It has been the custom in this city to water the streets with salt water, for two reasons—it is more easily obtained and it does not evaporate so fast. But if it has been found injurious in other places, it must be injurious here.

POLITICAL.—Since our last, the second trial to elect a Senator in Portsmouth has resulted in the choice of Mr. JOHN TALENTS, A.

At the second trial to elect a Representative in Warren on Friday, WILLIAM L. BAKER, W., was elected.

At the third trial in Richmond, on Tuesday, SIXTON BALCOMB, A., was elected Senator, and STEPHEN T. ANTHONY, A., Representative.

An election to fill the vacancies in the Providence delegation will take place to-morrow. It is understood that the Americans and Republicans will unite on a ticket.

The second trial in this city for Senator and one Representative takes place to-day. The nominations are, Americans, JOSEPH ANTHONY, Senator, HENRY BEDLOW, Representative. Republicans, JOHN ALLAN, Senator, SAMUEL T. HOPKINS, Representative. Democratic, J. ALFRED HAZARD, Senator, THOMAS R. HUNTER, Representative.

The Richmond *Examiner*, one of the most violent of the ultra southern papers, thus expresses its fears of the effects of a war with England on the South: "The cotton of the Carolinas and the tobacco of Virginia would waste in the fields of the planter, and he might accept the emancipation of his slaves as well as an intolerable burden. The South, now so rich and powerful, might be impoverished and humiliated; and on its ruins abolitionism would erect the commercial and political despotism to which it aspires. The plunder of privations, the monopoly of the market in the produce of cotton, and the sales of manufactures, and above all, the conquest of Canada, would aggrandise the North in proportion as the South sinks in the scale of wealth and power. So inseparably are the interests of the South bound up with the preservation of peace with Great Britain."

The Boston *Journal* has added a new six cylinder fast press to their establishment, a measure called for by its increased circulation, and one that involves an outlay of over twenty thousand dollars. It is not many years ago that the *Journal* was struck off on a hand-press, now the weekly paper of the office, for work done on the *Journal* amounts to between seven hundred and eight hundred dollars, and the paper bills for the past year amounted to over sixty thousand dollars.

The *Alta California* gives a list of insolvent petitions filed during the past year, amounting to fifty-two, their liabilities, \$5,186,016, assets, nominal, \$1,556,623, extent of failure \$3,629,384, and this large sum does not include the losses of PAER, BACON & CO., and SANDERS & BERNARD, whose houses not having made an application for the benefit of the act.

At the annual meeting of the Association of Mechanics and Manufacturers, held Monday evening last the following officers were unanimously elected: President—SAMUEL COUSHALL. Vice President—SAMUEL T. HOPKINS. Treasurer—WILLIAM BROWNELL. Secretary—H. HANCOCK STICKNEY.

Mr. F. H. BROWN has increased his facilities for Bleaching Bonnets, Hats, &c., and is now prepared to make these articles look as good as new. From what we have seen of Mr. BROWN's work we are satisfied he is second to none in this line of business.

The New Bedford five cents' saving bank has declared a second semi-annual dividend of three per cent. The *Mercury* says the institution deservedly enjoys a high degree of popular favor.

In 1846 the debt of Austria amounted to 1,067,000,000 florins; at the present time, exclusive of the large floating debt, its present indebtedness is set down at the enormous sum of 2,056,000,000 florins.

The mean average of the month of March 1856, was 20.47. The coldest March in 49 years was that of March 1843; the average of which was 29.27. So that March 1856 was about one degree warmer than the coldest in 39 years.

Mr. EDWIN J. SWAN has resigned the superintendency of the gas works at this place, and Mr. FREDERICK C. SHERRAN has been elected to fill the vacancy. Mr. SHERRAN comes highly recommended as an experienced and skillful gas engineer.

After the stagnation of the world there has been a decided change in the real estate market, recently changed hands, and the price of property has been raised. The most important of these was the Golding Mill, which was sold on Thursday for a broker for parties out of town. It was bought for thirty-three thousand, six hundred dollars, the price being paid in cash. The mill was purchased by Messrs. HAZARD & CAPWELL, for twenty thousand dollars, by the same parties. The lot south of the mill was purchased by Mr. JOHN J. ALLAN, for eighteen thousand and three hundred and seventy dollars, making in all \$41,400. The mill and the lot were purchased by Messrs. HAZARD & CAPWELL, for twenty thousand dollars, by the same parties. The lot south of the mill was purchased by Mr. JOHN J. ALLAN, for eighteen thousand and three hundred and seventy dollars, making in all \$41,400.

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THE NEW GUANO ISLANDS.—Our readers are aware that a number of vessels, including one belonging to the United States, are reported to have been dispatched to certain new guano islands alleged to have been discovered in the Pacific. The existence of these islands is affirmed upon the testimony of Capt. Nettler of New Bedford, Mass., who, in an affidavit made on the 23d day of March ultimo, declares that when cruising in the barque *Isabella* of Fairhaven, in August, 1842, he found these islands and went ashore upon them, and found upon one of them the grave of a sailor who had been buried there by Capt. Baker, of the ship *Gideon* Howland, of New Bedford, who had preceded him in the discovery of the islands some two or three years. Mr. John S. Deblon of New Bedford, who sailed with Capt. Nettler on the cruise of 1841-42 in a letter addressed to that gentleman on the 24th ultimo also testifies to the existence of these islands, and the abundance of guano upon them.

Full information upon these subjects has been transmitted to the Patent Office, at the appropriate depository of such information.—*National Intelligencer*.

THE LAST SOLDIER OF THE REVOLUTION IN THIS CITY IS DEAD.—Mr. Ephraim Broomfield at his residence on the New Boston road on Saturday last, in the 95th year of his age. He was in the war of the Revolution, and held a Sergeant's office. He was among the earliest to receive a pension from the Government, which he continued to receive semi-annually during his life. He has enjoyed good health, and but a few days previous to his death, walked two miles. He leaves a widow about twenty years older than himself. He leaves children over 70 years of age. We doubt if another instance can be found in New England where the united ages of husband and wife are over 190 years. A great number of our citizens attended the funeral on Tuesday. Services by Rev. Mr. Hathaway of the Franklin street Church. The flags of the shipping, and on Prescott street, were suspended at half mast. Mr. B. was the last of the soldiers of the Revolution in this city.—*Fall River Monitor*.

About a hoghead of acorns of the cork oak has been introduced from the south of Europe, and distributed in the Middle and Southern States for experiment, to test their adaptation to the climate. This tree, in its native country, where it is an evergreen, usually grows to the height of twenty to thirty feet, but in England there are specimens which exceed fifty feet in height, with a diameter of more than three feet. The substance familiarly known as cork, is the epidermis, or outer bark, and sometimes grows two or three inches thick. Should the experiment succeed, it will be a subject of great national importance that plantations should be established in various parts of the country for the purpose of growing this useful substance, particularly in the event of a war between this country and Europe, in consequence of which the supply would be cut off.

BOY TURN TO PIECES BY A CURBAN BLOODHOUND.—Ephraim Whitehead, son of R. Whitehead, who lives on Cedar street was missing on Saturday about eleven o'clock. After dinner the family became alarmed, and search was instituted for him. A nephew of Whitehead discovered the boy in a field, about twenty rods from the house, nearly dead, having been attacked and torn in a most awful manner by a bloodhound stall, owned in the neighborhood. The poor little fellow lived only a half an hour after he was found. When he was discovered, the question was asked whether it was the bloodhound attacked him. He had barely strength enough to half articulate "Yes." The boy was about eight years old, and was a general favorite with the family.—*Cleveland Plaindealer*.

In clearing up one of the rooms at Stanwix hall yesterday, a waiter discovered a cat so crowded into a boot, that it was with difficulty that she could be extricated. Having got her out, the next question over was "How did she get in?" This was leaning to a long-winded dispute, when one of the bystanders took up the boot, gave it a shake, and tossed a half-grown rat upon the floor. The discovery of the rat solved the riddle. The rat to escape the cat rushed into the boot; the cat to secure a game dinner rushed after him, and with such force that she could not back out again. Learn wisdom from pussy, and enter "go it blind," even in a good cause. *Albany Knickerbocker*.

The artificial limbs which took the premium at the London world's fair are constructed of willow, covered with parchment painted a flesh color, and beautifully enamelled, are remarkably light, and are not burdensome in their attachments, and perfect ventilation is secured to the stump. The knee joint, being a successful imitation of the ball and socket joint, avoids the deformity that the ordinary tenon and mortice joint exposes upon bending the limb. The ankle and the toe joints are also imitated, cords, operated by springs and cam eccentrics, and the stump of the leg, give great certainty to the movements of the contrivance.

THE BRITISH SHIP RESOLUTE.—We learn from a correspondent at New London that the British Government have given up all claim to the ship *Resolute*, now lying in that harbor, and that she is to be sold, with all her fixtures, for the benefit of the parties concerned in her recovery. An account of her "furnishings" is now being taken, among which is a choice supply of articles of an anti-Maine-law character, which are represented to be of a superior kind. The hardy men who succeeded in rescuing this ship will now receive a handsome reward for their resolution and hard ships.—*New Haven Palladium*.

SPRING BONNETS.—The editor of the Philadelphia *Star*, who sets up for a "ladies' man," says of the spring bonnets:—"In our walks about town to 'see the prettys' which the ladies are exhibiting, we find that they are even smaller than before; indeed they have not already reached the falling off place. They are in fact nothing more—certainly nothing less than a full bordered cap; a wreath of flowers fastened on foundation muslin, or clusters of fruit. We must admit that they are very becoming to any pretty woman."

There was a fuss upon the sailing of the steamer *Orizaba* from New York on Tuesday with 500 passengers for San Juan, Nicaragua, of whom 300 were supposed to be destined for Gen. Walker's army. She was boarded by the U. S. marshal in the stern, who took from her John Kingsley, J. C. Hemmick, and C. C. Hicks, charged with organizing a body of armed men to fight against Costa Rica. The steamer was then permitted to go on.

At Matilda, C. W., two men, a woman and a child, when crossing the river, were upset; the woman clung to the boat and held her child with her mouth till she was picked up, about two miles from the place of the accident. One of the men was drowned and the other swam ashore.

At Matilda, C. W., two men, a woman and a child, when crossing the river, were upset; the woman clung to the boat and held her child with her mouth till she was picked up, about two miles from the place of the accident. One of the men was drowned and the other swam ashore.

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CHRISTIANITY AND GUNPOWDER.—The New York Times details the following scene at the proceeding of a Kansas meeting held in the North Church, New Haven. The admirers of Professor Siliman will regret that he could have participated in a business that neither belittles Christianity nor glorifies gunpowder.

Professor Siliman of Yale College then rose and said that he did not hope Slavery would be put to the fullest use of which they are capable; but self-defence especially in the cause of freedom, is a sacred duty. He deprecated the necessities of the time which demand such preparation on the part of settlers in Kansas but he believed in meeting manfully the present exigencies, bad as they might be. He said he desired to head the list for the procuring of a number of weapons of defence for the party setting out, and therefore Mr. Lines might put down on the paper, "R. Siliman, One Sharp's Rifle."

The price of a rifle was \$25. Mr. Russell and Rev. Mr. Dutton rose both at once. Mr. Russell speaks first;—Put me down for one. Rev. Mr. Dutton (Pastor of the Church)—One of the deacons of this church, Mr. Harvey Hall is going out with the company, and I, as his pastor, desire to present to him a Bible and a Sharp's Rifle. [Great applause.]

F. P. Pie—I will give one for myself, and also one for my wife. Mr. Beecher—I like to see that; it is a strike right and left. [Great laughter.] Charles Lives—Put me down for three. Thomas R. Trowbridge—Put me down for four. [Continued laughter.] Dr. J. I. Howe—I will subscribe for one. A gentleman said that Miss Mary Dutton would give one.

Dr. Stephen Hubbard—one. Mr. Beecher here stated that if twenty-five could be raised on the spot, he would pledge twenty-five more from Plymouth Church—fifty being a sufficient number for the whole supply. [Clapping of hands all over the house.] Prof. Siliman now left Mr. Beecher to speak for the bid, and sat down to enjoy the occasion.

Mr. Killam—I give one. Mr. Beecher—Killam—That's a significant name in connection with a Sharp's Rifle. [Laughter.] Mr. Vining—Another for me! Mr. Moses Tyler—I will pledge one Sharp's rifle from the Junior Class in Yale College. [Great applause.] Prof. Siliman (rising in his seat sweeping the galleries with his eye)—There are four classes in Yale College. [Immense sensation.] Henry Trowbridge—One! John G. North—One!

Mr. Beecher—I think Kansas will now know that there is a north! [Great applause.] William Kingsley—One for me. Lucius L. Olmstead—One. Mr. Dunlap—I will pledge one for the senior class in Yale College.

It was now ascertained that instead of twenty-five, twenty-seven rifles had been subscribed, the cost of which, together with the amount received at the door for admission fees, made the collection for Kansas in the North Church one thousand dollars. The meeting then adjourned.

ERRORS OF THE PRESS.—Errors of the press have always amused readers and annoyed writers. The history of misprints has been treated in magazine articles and a collection of typographical errors might be made sufficient to fill a volume. One of the most extraordinary typographical blunders we ever remember to have heard of occurred in the first issue of the "Men of the Time," lately published in London by Mr. Bogue. "Under the name of the Bishop of Oxford," the following singular statement appeared: "A more kind hearted and truly benevolent man does not exist. A sceptic as it regards religious revelation, he is, nevertheless, an out and out believer in spirit movements." The explanation of the enigma is, that a couple of lines had strayed out of the biography of Robert Owen into that of the Bishop of Oxford, thus causing one of the most curious misprints in the whole history of printing. We need scarcely add that, upon the discovery of the error, Mr. Bogue took measures to have it rectified. The erroneous copies (like the Breeches Bibles) will be quite biographical curiosities.

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